AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 4-6, 13, 15, 16, 18, 26-28 and 34 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 9, 23 and 31 currently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a proxy service, the method comprising:

receiving a message from an application that supports browsing, the message being identified as invoking the proxy service; and

selectively forwarding the message by a transport layer switching mechanism to a proxy agent configured to provide the proxy service, the transport layer switching mechanism residing in a host that is loaded with the application,

wherein the forwarding of the message is transparent to the application.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the proxy agent in the forwarding step includes at least one of a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) proxy and a Domain Name Server (DNS) proxy.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the switching mechanism resides in a host that is loaded with the application.~~

5. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the switching mechanism resides in a network element that is configured to perform routing of the message.~~

6. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the switching mechanism resides in a modem that is configured to communicate over a satellite network.~~

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the proxy agent resides in at least one of a host loaded with the application, a satellite modem, and a network element configured to perform routing of the message.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message is transmitted over a wide area network (WAN) that includes a two-way satellite network.

9. (Currently Amended) A network apparatus for providing a proxy service, comprising:

a transport layer switching logic configured to receive a message from an application that supports browsing and to identify the message as invoking the proxy service, the transport layer switching logic residing in a host that is loaded with the application,

wherein the switching logic selectively forwards the message to a proxy agent configured to provide the proxy service, the forwarding of the message being transparent to the application.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the proxy agent includes at least one of a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) proxy and a Domain Name Server (DNS) proxy.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a communication interface coupled to the switching logic and configured to communicate with a modem that is configured to communicate over a satellite network.

13. (Canceled) ~~An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the proxy agent resides in at least one of the satellite modem, and a network element configured to perform routing of the message.~~

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the message is transmitted over a wide area network (WAN) that includes a two-way satellite network.

15. (Canceled) ~~A communication system for supporting a proxy service, the system comprising:~~

~~a host loaded with an application that supports browsing, the application outputting a message requesting information; and~~

~~a network element configured to receive the message from the host and to identify the message as invoking a proxy agent to perform the proxy service, the network element includes a transport layer switching mechanism to selectively forward the message to the proxy agent, the forwarding of the message being transparent to the application of the host.~~

16. (Canceled) ~~A system according to claim 15, wherein the proxy agent includes at least one of a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) proxy and a Domain Name Server (DNS) proxy.~~

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled) ~~A system according to claim 15, wherein the message is transmitted over a wide area network (WAN) that includes a two-way satellite network.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A computing device for supporting a proxy service, comprising:

means for receiving a message identified as invoking the proxy service from an application that supports browsing; and

means for switching at a transport layer to selectively forward the message to a proxy agent configured to provide the proxy service, the transport layer switching mechanism residing in a host that is loaded with the application,

wherein the forwarding of the message is transparent to the application.

20. (Original) A device according to claim 19, wherein the proxy agent includes at least one of a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) proxy and a Domain Name Server (DNS) proxy.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) A device according to claim 19, wherein the message is transmitted over a wide area network (WAN) that includes a two-way satellite network.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for providing a proxy service, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a message from an application that supports browsing, the message being identified as invoking the proxy service; and

selectively forwarding the message by a transport layer switching mechanism to a proxy agent configured to provide the proxy service, the transport layer switching mechanism residing in a host that is loaded with the application,

wherein the forwarding of the message is transparent to the application.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the proxy agent in the forwarding step includes at least one of a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) proxy and a Domain Name Server (DNS) proxy.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Cancel) ~~A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the switching mechanism resides in a host that is loaded with the application.~~

27. (Cancel) ~~A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the switching mechanism resides in a network element that is configured to perform routing of the message.~~

28. (Canceled) ~~A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the switching mechanism resides in a modem that is configured to communicate over a satellite network.~~

29. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the proxy agent resides in at least one of a host loaded with the application, a satellite modem, and a network element configured to perform routing of the message.

30. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the message is transmitted over a wide area network (WAN) that includes a two-way satellite network.

31. (Currently Amended) A network apparatus for providing a proxy service, comprising:

a transport layer switching logic configured to receive a message from an application that supports browsing and to identify the message as invoking the proxy service; and

a proxy agent configured to provide the proxy service,

wherein the switching logic selectively forwards the message to the proxy agent, the forwarding of the message being transparent to the application, the transport layer switching logic residing in a modem that is configured to communicate over a satellite network.

32. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the proxy agent includes at least one of a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) proxy and a Domain Name Server (DNS) proxy.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled) ~~An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising:~~

~~a communication interface coupled to the switching logic and configured to communicate with a modem that is configured to communicate over a satellite network.~~

35. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the message is transmitted over a wide area network (WAN) that includes a two-way satellite network.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the transport layer switching mechanism is configured to operate according to Layer 4 of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

37. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the transport layer switching logic is configured to operate according to Layer 4 of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein the transport layer switching mechanism is configured to operate according to Layer 4 of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

39. (Original) A device according to claim 19, wherein the transport layer switching means is configured to operate according to Layer 4 of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

40. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the transport layer switching mechanism is configured to operate according to Layer 4 of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

41. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the transport layer switching logic is configured to operate according to Layer 4 of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.